

CLAIMS

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1. A database access tool comprising:
 - i) means for constructing database queries;
 - 5 ii) a query store for storing database queries;
 - iii) a search tool for searching the query store against a constructed query; and
 - iv) query submission means for selecting between a constructed query and a query located against it by the search tool, and for submitting the selected query to a database.
- 10 2. A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the means for constructing database queries comprises user input means for loading data to at least one data field in a database query and the search tool comprises means to calculate a similarity factor between data fields in database queries stored in the query
- 15 store and at least one data field in a newly constructed database query.
3. A tool according to Claim 2 wherein the query store and the search tool are constructed according to use of case based reasoning (CBR) and the means for constructing database queries does so to construct a query as a case.
- 20 4. A tool according to Claims ~~2 or 3~~ 2 or 3 wherein management information data is collected in use of the tool to submit queries to the database, the tool further comprising means for collecting said management information, structuring the management information for a respective query in the same manner as a

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database query constructed by the tool and loading the structured management information to a management information data store, said management information data store being searchable by means of the search tool.

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5. A database access tool according to ~~any~~¹ preceding claim, further comprising a data store for storing results associated with previous database queries and wherein the search tool is further operable, when a located query is identical or similar to the constructed query, to return the results stored in the data store that are associated with the located query.

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